Connecting Community

Calendar of Events

June
11 Community Forum
16 Caring for the Feet of the Elderly Workshop
23 10MMM Youth Film Festival Gala Evening
24 – 25 Film Festival Sessional Screenings

July
16 & 17 Heartland Regional Development Conference
23 – 25 Young Entrepreneurial Student Visit from USA
29 – 30 Wimmera Mallee Careers Expo

Dr Geoff Handbury AO Receives RMIT University Honorary Doctorate Award

Local Hamilton resident, Dr Geoffrey Handbury AO, was on 8 May admitted by RMIT University to the degree of Doctor of Social Science Honoris Causa at the 2009 Honorary Awards Ceremony in Melbourne.

Dr Geoff Handbury AO has been an esteemed donor to the University for several years. His scholarship fund finances many imperative community-based research projects that provide direct tangible benefits towards the sustainability of regional areas. The research Geoff supports through RMIT is an investment in community.

Dr Geoff Handbury AO accepts his honorary doctorate award from Chancellor, Professor Dennis Gibson AO.

2009 Community Forum Series

11 June 2009, 5.30pm.

In the next forum to be held in the RMIT University Hamilton 2009 Community Forum Series, Professor John Buckeridge takes the advent of Darwin 200 as an opportune time to reflect upon Darwin’s influence on the 21st century.

Professor Buckeridge, the Head of the Civil, Environmental & Chemical Engineering School at RMIT University and President of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), will explore this topic in depth and will provide a fantastic opportunity for thought sharing and discussion.

Professor Buckeridge will review humanity’s progress in the acceptance (or otherwise) of the evolution of life through natural selection, exploring the compromise between thoughts on science and religion at this time.

"Hostility towards proponents of natural (as opposed to deistic) selection is not a new phenomenon: Darwin experienced it immediately after publication of his On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection in 1859, especially from the established Church, within which at that time, suspicion of evolution was widespread. Although there is no certainty that Darwin was a Christian at the end of his life, he clearly took steps to modify his words – either to hedge his bets, or to placate Christian friends and family."

Community members and school groups are welcome. Please RSVP to Leanne Cottrill, on 5572 0500 or email leanne.cottrill@rmit.edu.au

Caring for the Feet of the Elderly Workshop

16 June 2009 – 9am -4pm. Cost - $430.

RMIT University Hamilton will be hosting a ‘Caring for the Feet of the Elderly’ Workshop in conjunction with registered Podiatrists from Mayfield Education.

The workshop is designed specifically for health workers who care for the elderly or people with a disability, and teaches safe and appropriate foot care techniques. Aims at maintaining healthy foot function in elderly and disabled

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people, the workshop also helps to identify high risk situations requiring referral to specialist podiatrists. Practical supervised experience in toe nail cutting and redistributive padding is part of this program also.

More specifically the workshop will focus on:

- Foot anatomy and risk factors for foot pathology and identification of foot problems.
- Preventing and treating common foot disorders.
- First aid for acute foot injuries.
- Good footwear and correct fitting techniques.
- Resources including sources of equipment.
- Practice session: foot care including foot hygiene toe nail cutting, and infection control/sterilisation practices.

For more information please contact Marilyn Lyons, Learning Centre Coordinator, on 5572 0502 or email marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au

Bachelor of Nursing Program Update – Information Evening 19 August

Semester 1 has almost drawn to a close, with SWOT VAC this week signalling the end of academic learning and the beginning of the exam period, with a well earned rest to follow. Year 2 students are completing their second clinical practicum for the year, with very positive results.

Members of the RMIT University Hamilton Community Advisory Group, along with Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Colin Fudge, toured the nursing laboratory on Tuesday 26 May. All members were pleasantly surprised to hear about the program, in particular the progress of the students. They commented positively on the high level of equipment made available to Hamilton RMIT University Bachelor of Nursing students.

RMIT Hamilton will host an open information evening for the Undergraduate Bachelor of Nursing on the 19 August, starting at 7pm. If you have an interest in completing your Bachelors Degree in Nursing please come along to hear about our program, tour our state of the art facilities and have all of your questions answered. Attendees will be introduced to some exciting innovations and additions to the 2010 Nursing Course.

Master of Economic Development – New Program

Beginning next semester RMIT University Hamilton will be introducing a Master of Economic Development.

The Master of Economic Development provides a unique postgraduate program on local and regional economic development. The program is designed for individuals who want an intensive professional education in economic development that will equip them to work as a qualified practitioner in this field. The program will help individuals as a practitioner, whether you work in local government, a State or Commonwealth agency, in a region-scale organisation whose primary task is economic development, or in another organisation which has economic development responsibilities or interests.

Courses available in Semester 2, 2009, are Introduction to Economic Development (ECON1253) and Community Economic Analysis (ECON1257).

To register you interest in this program please contact Dr Paul Collitts on 5572 0500, or email paul.collitts@rmit.edu.au

Alternatively, follow the link below for more comprehensive information on the program.
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/mc175

10MMM News

10MMM Youth Film Festival Gala Evening
23 June, 2009

The spectacular gala opening night will be held at the newly refurbished Hamilton Cinema on 23 June.

Regional youth, aged 12 - 25 will be present, along with family, friends and official representatives from 10MMM associated organisations. Short film entries, including live action, animation and claymation short films, will be shown on the big screen! The theme for film entries in this inaugural event is ‘Have Your Say’.

A panel of local judges, along with Deb Verhoven, Associate Professor of Screen Studies, RMIT University, will be judging the winners on the night, with some great prizes available for the winning entries in four separate categories.

Regional youth have been working feverously to have their films ready for the submission deadline of 5pm, 17 June.

10MMM Youth Film Festival Sessional Screenings
24 & 25 June, 2009

Sessional screening of the film festival entries will be held on the two days following the gala evening on 24 & 25 June. The following session times have been confirmed at the Hamilton Cinema, Brown Street, Hamilton:

Wednesday 25 June – 10am, 12.30pm, 2pm & 6pm.
Thursday 26 June – 10am, 12.30pm, 2pm & 6pm.

Individual, group and school group bookings are welcome. These sessions are free of charge.

More information is available by visiting the 10MMM Youth Film Festival Facebook page - under ‘Youthfilmfestival Hamilton’, including the most recent news, photos, and more!

For all enquiries please contact Jessica Still, 10MMM Project Officer, on 5572 0500, or email jessica.still@rmit.edu.au

RMIT University Hamilton Welcomes Three New Staff Members

Garth Benneyworth – Regional Development Research Officer

Garth Benneyworth has recently joined RMIT University Hamilton, as Regional Development Research Officer. Having relocated from Sydney, Garth is looking forward to settling into his new role and exploring all that the region has to offer.

Garth will working closely with Dr Paul Collitts and Shelagh Krummel within the RMIT University School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning.
Garth brings with him extensive international experience in consulting and research within the social science arena. Garth has spent the past 20 years working in Africa, the United Kingdom and Europe. Garth is a currently undertaking PhD studies and has a strong interest in behavioural sciences and development studies.

**Leanne Cottrill – Administration & Student Support Officer**

RMIT University Hamilton welcome Leanne Cottrill into the role of Administration & Student Support Officer, replacing Carol Burger who is currently on a 12 month leave break. Leanne comes to RMIT University Hamilton with extensive experience in the administrative, finance and customer service fields.

**Rachel McDonald – Communications Officer**

Rachel McDonald has been appointed to fill the role of Communications Officer, with Dinah Hallam also taking a 12 month leave period. Rachel completed a Commerce/Arts double degree in 2003 and has experience in project management, public relations and marketing roles.

**Monograph Release**

The monograph titled *Unexpected Sources of Hope – Community, Climate Change and the Future*, is the first publication from a collaborative research project that is exploring the impacts of climate change and other global uncertainties on the future for people living in the Hamilton regions.

Yaso Nadarajah and Martin Mulligan are Senior Research Fellows at RMIT University, and have worked on the monograph collaboratively with local residents and writers, Christina Hindhaugh and Louise Le Nay.

Aimed to stimulate conversation on the topic at hand, the monograph features stories set in the future, based on the outcome of a two-day scenario mapping workshop help in February 2008.

For more information, or to obtain a copy of the *Unexpected Sources of Hope – Community, Climate Change and the Future* please contact Terrie Nicholson on 5572 0549, or email terrie.nicholson@rmit.edu.au

**Rural In-migration Study**

Hundreds of surveys are being released to residents of the Southern Grampians Shire as part of a larger Rural In-migration project taking place at RMIT University Hamilton. The surveys are designed for residents who have been living in the Southern Grampians Shire for five years or less.

The aim of the project is to examine the motivations and expectations of new residents in Southern Grampians Shire and the extent to which these expectations are met.

The study has the potential to inform Southern Grampians Shire Council strategies for attracting new people to the region.

If you are interested in completing the survey, please contact Leanne Cottrill, on 5572 0500 or email leanne.cottrill@rmit.edu.au

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For local information please contact the following staff:

Research in Regional Development: Dr Paul Collits, at paul.collits@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0537.
Nursing and Midwifery: Kerry McMullan at kerry.mcmullan@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0551.
Community Engagement: Dr Kaye Schoolfield at kaye.schoolfield@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0501.
Short Course Programs: Marilyn Lyons at marilyn.lyons@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0502.
Local – Global Program: Terrie Nicholson at terrie.nicholson@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0549.
General Enquiries and Student Support: Leanne Cottrill at leanne.cottrill@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0500.

To register for E-News or for general media enquiries: Rachel McDonald at rachel.mcdonald@rmit.edu.au or Tel: 5572 0505.